



**The Barra**  
*Weekly Newsletter of St. Finbar's Catholic Parish, Glenbrook*  
**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**11th & 12th November 2023**

**Wisdom 6:12-16; Ps 62; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13**

**FR JOE'S MUSINGS**

**Half-time Inventory**

Today I would like to provide you with an inventory snapshot at half-time of my tenure at St Finbar's. As you may recall, Bishop Vincent has appointed me PP of St Finbar in November 2020 for a period of six years ending in 2026. The first three years were full of challenges. Shortly after my arrival, the parish went into Covid 19 lockdown. I believe that together we have fared well through this period. Particularly, we were also creative and innovative during this period with the permanent installation of the live-streaming facilities including new IT equipment, sound system and screens, online liturgical celebration and prayers, outdoor Masses etc. At the same time, we were able to complete our Columbarium project thanks to many helping hands.

After the lockdown, we started implementing the Parish Plenary decisions to have more social events (Passover dinner, formal dinner, volunteers' dinner, welcoming back BBQ, Whiskey and Gin retreat etc.) and faith formation program (bible studies, retreats, online theology courses, talks on various issues of interest, family Masses etc.). A new PPC model has been introduced giving PPC members more responsibility and greater transparency regarding the process of decision making. To cater for the social needs of parishioners, we renovated and added more appliance to the parish hall kitchen. Also, the outdoor Mass space has now been completed giving us more liturgical possibilities.

Financially, we also have consolidated our bank account. Since this year, we are debt free. However, we still need to exercise caution as many expenses are waiting in the line. Now, we can invest in more in people and faith programs. I believe that we also have increased the number of Mass attendants, with many young families now joining the parish. Furthermore we also have strengthened our partnership with other churches in Glenbrook through various activities, such as the Christmas carols at Glenbrook Park, Lenten soup Sundays and the movie night at our local cinema. We also have cooperated with the Blue Mountains Refugees Support Group and offer facilities to assist those who suffer domestic violence through Gateway Family Services in Blaxland.

It has always been my motto that the PP is the least important person in the parish. In many ways, you have stepped up and acted as good stewards of our parish and guardians of faith. For this I thank you wholeheartedly.

*Please continue reading on page 3*

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joseph Lam  
 E-mail: [joseph.lam@parracatholic.org](mailto:joseph.lam@parracatholic.org)

**Secretary:** Juliana Khnouf  
 E-mail: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

**Admin:** Peter McMahon  
 E-mail: [admin@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:admin@stfinbars.org.au)

**PPC:**  
 E-mail: [stfinbarsppc@gmail.com](mailto:stfinbarsppc@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** 9.30am – 3.00pm  
 Tuesday to Friday  
 (Closed on Mondays)

Office Phone: **(02) 47426958**

**Parish QR Code:**  
 Please use this QR Code to donate to St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook using your Credit Card, or to make any payments. Please select from the list.



**Address:**  
 52 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773  
 PO Box 123 Glenbrook NSW 2773

**Sacraments**  
 Confessions: Saturdays 4.30-5.15pm  
 Baptisms: By Appointment  
 Weddings: By Appointment

**Web:** [www.stfinbars.org.au](http://www.stfinbars.org.au)  
**Facebook:** Glenbrook Catholic Church St Finbars

**Parish School:** Principal  
 Mrs Robyn Clarke  
 Phone: 4724 3600

**HAPPY 93RD BIRTHDAY**

The parish wishes Marie Hurley a happy birthday. Marie will turn 93 years young this weekend. Marie's journey is an inspiration to us all here at St Finbar's with her dedication, love and support to the parish life. May God's blessing be with her always.



**SUNDAY'S BAPTISMS:**

The Parish joyfully announces the Baptism of **Chelsea Victoria Mae Camlin** this Sunday, and warmly welcomes her into our Faith Community here at St Finbar's.



**WE WELCOME**

*all visitors to our church today. We extend our greetings to you. If you wish to join St Finbar's Parish, please make yourself known to one of our Wardens so we can give you our Parish Welcome Pack.*

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE**

*the Traditional custodians of this land on which we worship at St Finbar's - The Darug and Gundungurra People. We pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

<p><b>Sunday</b> 12th November</p> <p><i>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>10.45am Baptisms</b></p> <p>3.00pm Children's Choir P/C</p>
<p><b>Monday</b> 13th November</p>	<p><b>No Mass. Office is closed</b></p> <p>5.00pm SVDP Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b> 14th November</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>5.30pm Cantabile Choir Practice</p> <p>7.00pm Finance Committee Meeting M/R</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> 15th November</p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass followed by Rosary</b></p> <p>9.30am Playgroup P/C</p> <p>7.00pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> 16th November</p>	<p><b>NO MORNING MASS</b></p> <p>1.15pm Bridge Club P/C</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> 17th November</p> <p><i>St Elizabeth of Hungary</i></p>	<p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>1.00pm Bowlers P/C</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 18th November</p>	<p>7.30am Men's Breakfast P/C</p> <p><b>9.15am Mass</b></p> <p>4.30pm Confessions</p> <p><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass</b></p> <p>7.30pm Bach Akademie Concert</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> 19th November</p> <p><i>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A</i></p>	<p><b>7.30am Mass</b></p> <p><b>9.30am Mass</b></p> <p>1.15pm Bridge P/C</p> <p><b>6.00pm Youth Mass</b></p> <p>7.00pm Senior Youth Group P/C</p>

**DIOCESAN MEDAL OF HONOUR FOR PATRICK WATSON AND CITATION OF MERIT FOR YOUTH FOR CLAIRE BROWN.**

Congratulations to Patrick Watson and Claire Brown for being honored by Bishop Vincent Long for their amazing contributions to the parish.



**ALL SAINTS PARTY FOR ST FINBAR'S CHILDREN LAST WEEK**

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise a great event for the parish. The kids had so much fun and more than 150 people attended.



**BUSH SCHOOL CAMBODIA**

Thankyou to all parishioners who attended, or otherwise supported, the Cabaret Dinner and Dance on Saturday 4th November. We had over 80 people seated for dinner and enjoying fine live musical performance, together with a dance session to conclude the evening. The generous dinner selection was wholly prepared and donated by our dedicated committee and Lions members. Singers and musicians added their talents to guarantee a very enjoyable and successful evening in support of Bush School.

Many thanks to all helpers at the dinner, and to St Finbar's for the use of the hall and kitchen facilities.

*Doug Frewer*

**DIocese OF PARRAMATTA NOTICES**

**Positions Vacant:**

- ✦ Facilitator – Marriage – Mission Enhancement Team, Diocese of Parramatta – **Applications close 10pm Monday 13 November 2023.**
- ✦ Youth Coordinator (part-time) - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill – **Applications close Thursday 30 November 2023.**

More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cathedral Organ Concert: 12 November**

St Patrick's Cathedral Organists, Choir and Guest Performers will present an array of performances at a Gala Concert to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Patrick's Cathedral Organ. The Concert will be held on Sunday 12 November from 3pm at St Patrick's Cathedral. Tickets can be purchased via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/CLUFN> or at the door. For more information, contact [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org)

**2024 Religious Calendars**

Next year's beautiful calendars are now available for purchase at the Wardens' table.

The cost is quite modest being \$8 for the Franciscan and \$10 for the Columban.

All proceeds go to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

# ST. FINBAR'S PARISH NEWS

## FR JOE'S MUSINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

What will be the vision for the next three years until I end my tenure as PP in 2026? I pray that you continue to be good stewards of the parish and guardians of the faith for our children and grandchildren. To make it possible, we need more volunteers in various ministries, such as special faith education (catechists), liturgical ministers, musicians, IT helpers, church cleaners, faith formation leaders, youth ministry, sacramental facilitators, pastoral care, hospitality etc. In many ministries we need to ease the burden of the few who generously give their time and talents to support the parish and people. Many have done these ministries over many years and (now reaching a senior age) wish to pass on the baton to younger hands. I observe that many who are currently involved in various ministries have reached their limits. We need to be fair to them as well.

The next three years will prove whether our parish has the capacity to move forward and to remain vibrant caring and supporting a variety of needs, inside and outside. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us in our discernment of talents and gifts and inspires us to use them wisely and well for the benefit of all of us.

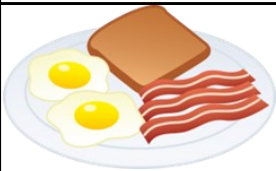
Thank you for your generosity and God bless.

Fr Joe

### INVITATION FAMILY MASS TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA & SAUSAGE SIZZLE. ST FINBAR'S PARISH GLENBROOK



You are invited to come and join the parish for Family Mass followed by morning tea, sausage sizzle and games on Sunday the 26th of November 2023 at the 9.30am Mass



### ST FINBAR'S MEN'S BREAKFAST

Date - Saturday 18th November 2023

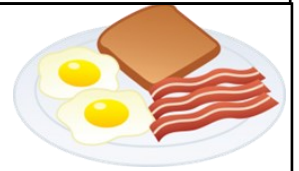
Time - 7:30 am – 9:00 am - Venue - Parish hall

The parish is holding another Men's breakfast as an opportunity for parishioners to meet and get to know one another. This invitation is

open to all male parishioners and any of their sons, grandsons, neighbours and friends.

For catering purposes we will need to confirm numbers by Sunday 12th November 2023.

Please add your name to the list on the warden's table. Any questions please contact the organisers, Carl Moll 0417 471 137 or John De Mattia 4739 6775



## MUSIC IN THE CASTLE OF HEAVEN

Join Bach Akademie Australia orchestra and choir for their final spectacular concert of the year. 2023 brings us an opportunity to celebrate one of the greatest events in musical history, J.S. Bach's appointment as Thomaskantor in Leipzig. As a result, a new era in music history began. For the next 27 years, the requirements of his appointment combined with his deep faith and desire to encourage faith in all others, inspired Bach to produce music of such staggering beauty, complexity and profundity that changed the course of music forever. To celebrate this momentous event, we have chosen 2 of his most celebrated Leipzig cantatas and his wonderful motet 'Lobet den Herrn'. How can the works of Bach ever be adequately summed up? We will leave it to our international patron Sir John Eliot Gardiner 'But it is Bach, making music in the Castle of Heaven, who gives us the voice of God – in human form. He is the one who blazes a trail, showing us how to overcome our imperfections through the perfections of his music: to make divine things human and human things divine.'

**Saturday November 18, 7.30pm at St Finbar's Church, Glenbrook**

**BOOK NOW** <https://www.bachakademieaustralia.com.au/events> Ph: 1300 785 377



## Bateman Battersby

L A W Y E R S

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[Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:Gerard.Morson@turnerfreeman.com.au)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Maria Faggion (Fran Isaksen's Mother), Marie Kovacova (Mila Svehla's Cousin) and Lyn Beltran.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS:**

Christopher Thomson, David Haynes (Yvonne Scanlan's Dad), Mark Cheeseman, Gwen Cullinan, Pat Bell, Chris Paine, Lyn Downes, Jacqui Visser, Margaret Stevens, Margaret Christensen, Mark Bates, Terry Stevens, Sophie Hollies, Colleen & Michael Nolan, Maddison Farrugia, Harrison Aggar (Margaret & Ian Dickson's Grandson), Diosdado Roque (Geraldine Agahari's Father), Joan and Hubert Periera & Maureen Brown (Marcia Periera's Sister, Brother & Niece).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:**

Patrick Broughan, Lorraine Tolhurst, Patrick Field, Alma Melville, Kenneth Hepburn, Ludgardia Way, Renee Belton-Webber, Eileen O'Keefe, Amy Mood, Brenda Amaral, John Howling, Kathleen Roberts, Marjorie Fitzgibbons, Sheila Hammerton, Beverley Pembroke, Barry Wylie and Mary McGee.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER FOR 18TH & 19TH NOVEMBER 2023**

Liturgical Ministries	5.30pm	7.30 am	9.30 am
Sacristan	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Stuart Sheary
Senior Server	Vince Dobson	Carl Moll	Martin Rogers
Junior Servers	Volunteers Please		Zoe Wilson, Dominic Sheary & Tim Kensey
Warden	Lorraine Brown	Volunteer Please	Frank Fitzpatrick
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Maire Griffin	Kevin Lloyd	Peter or Trish Hurley
2nd Reading	Gideon Goosen	Volunteer Please	Annis Nilsson
Intercession	Margaret Moore	John Isaksen	Frank Fitzpatrick
Music	Cantabile		Naomi's Group
IT Operators	Henry Hanko	Elizabeth Konza	Susan Dowling
Gifts	Allan & Eileen Jones	Kay Whitty	The Wilson Family
Communion	Allan Jones + Volunteer Please	Helen Keogh + Volunteer Please	Irene Aligno + Volunteer Please
Children's Liturgy	Colin		
Piety Stall	Lee Jackson		
Church Care	Robyn Flynn, Jan de Bie, Jessica Doherty, Dawn Willis & Wendy Bohan		
Hospitality	Trish & Peter Hurley, Irene and Bert Aligno		



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